

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the nature of the protocol identifier. In particular, claim 1 indicates that the protocol identifier is independent of the signal lines such that the interface controller receives the protocol identifier separately from the signal lines. This avoids the interface controller having to read each pin to determine the applicable protocol. The protocol identifier provides this information directly. Support for this amendment can be found in Figure 3, e.g. the signal line 29.

Similar amendments have been made to independent claims 9 and 15.

No new subject matter is believed to have added by way of these amendments.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-11 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 2002/0069300 to Pascolini. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows.

As previously argued, Pascolini does not teach providing an identification signal but rather relies on checking which pins are active each time a new device is plugged into the port and uses this information to determine which protocol is appropriate. As such, Pascolini requires an additional step to determine the appropriate protocol and cannot immediately identify such protocol for a new DCE without checking each pin, each time a new DCE is connected. Therefore, not only does Pascolini not teach a protocol identifier as recited in claim 1 but the benefit of such a protocol identifier is clear and thus claim 1 is believed to patentably distinguish over Pascolini.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's interpretation of Pascolini, in particular that the step of checking each pin is indirectly a protocol identifier. Although Applicant does not agree that such teachings provide an anticipation of the protocol identifier recited in claim 1, as noted above, amended claim 1 is believed to clarify this distinction.

Pascolini does not teach receiving an independent protocol identifier but is entirely silent

in that regard. Applicant believes that it is clear that the amended language in claim 1 recites how the additional steps in Pascolini are avoided. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Pascolini does not teach every element of amended claim 1 and, as such, cannot anticipate.

Since claims 9 and 15 have been amended similar to claim 1, the above arguments equally apply thereto. Claims 2, 6, and 10-11 being ultimately dependent on either claim 1 or claim 9 are also believed to distinguish over Pascolini for at least that reason.

Claims 3 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pascolini in view of the Derfler article. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows.

It is believed to have been shown above that Pascolini does not teach an independent protocol identifier as recited in claims 1 and 9. Therefore, since claims 3 and 12 are dependent on claims 1 and 9 respectively, the Derfler article must teach at least what is missing from Pascolini.

The Derfler article teaches specific network protocols as recited in claims 3 and 12. However, Derfler does not teach an independent protocol identifier and thus does not teach what is missing from Pascolini. Therefore, for at least that reason, claims 3 and 12 are believed to be patentably distinguished over Pascolini in view of the Derfler article.

Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pascolini in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,081,627 to Yu. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows.

It is believed to have been shown above that Pascolini does not teach an independent protocol identifier as recited in claims 1 and 9. Therefore, since claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 are dependent on either claim 1 or claim 9, Yu must teach at least what is missing from Pascolini.

Yu teaches an interface for a DCE and DTE primarily for monitoring communications in a network. In fact, the Examiner cites Yu as teaching a power controller. However, Yu does not teach an independent protocol identifier and thus does not teach what is missing from Pascolini. Therefore, for at least that reason, claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 are believed to be patentably distinguished over Pascolini in view of Yu.

Summary

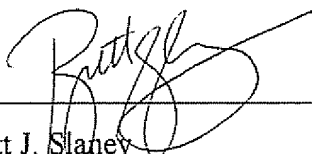
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely claims 1-3 and 6-15 clearly and patentably distinguish over the references cited by the Examiner

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and, as such are in condition for allowance.

Applicant requests early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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